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## Review - *Research Problems in Biology - Investigations for Students - Series 1 and 2*

Robert E. Yager

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# REVIEWS

**Delma Harding**

Zoology Department, Iowa State University, Ames

Many new and helpful books are coming off the press. We need to know about these so we can make full use of them in our teaching. Selections for this issue of the **Iowa Science Teachers' Journal** include books at both the elementary and secondary level.

## **The Quest of Johannes Kepler, Astronomer**

Barbara Land, illustrated by Sam Wisnom. Doubleday and Co. Copyright 1963. \$2.95.

Barbara Land has written a book presenting the scientific contributions of Johannes Kepler. She has explained the theories and events which influenced Kepler. The book includes enough of Kepler's life to make the book interesting to the junior high school age group. It gives students a background in the basics of the geometry of the solar system. The diagrams illustrate well the principles presented in the text.

Andrew Stevenson

## **Research Problems in Biology—Investigations for Students—Series 1 and 2**

Anchor Books, Doubleday and Co., N. Y. 232 and 240 pp. Copyright 1963. 95c.

These books now exist in a pocket book style. They are the "Biological Investigations" prepared by the BSCS groups. The investigations have been refined and are available in this commercial form. They are still of the high quality as expected when one considers that they are truly a research prospectus in the finest sense. They are the best available suggestions for research projects adapted for use in high schools by high school students. The series should be a **must** in the collection of biology teachers who are interested in encouraging involvement with research projects for their students. Each investigation has been prepared by a professional biologist.

Robert E. Yager

## **Let's Explore the Atom**

Alfred Bender. Sentinel Books Pub., Inc., 112 East 19th St., N. Y. Paper back. \$1.00.

This book is a **must** for all elementary and junior high science teachers. One idea from this book will point up the new techniques of presenting static charges. Use an inflated plastic "baggie". Blow it up and seal off with a rubber band. Rub it on various pieces of cloth and bring near some torn up pieces of paper. Have the students do these experiments themselves, record the results, and attempt to explain them. Now tie two inflated baggies to the ends of a ruler with six inch pieces of string. Rub these two bags with the same materials and note the results.

Lindy Solon

## **Teaching Chemistry with Models**

R. T. Sanderson, University of Iowa, Iowa City. D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., 120 Alexander Street, Princeton, N.J. Copyright 1962. \$4.60.

This book contains 175 pages packed with information. The first half deals with types of bonding as related to electron arrangement, and with the use of this information to understand chemical properties of elements and compounds. The colors used on the models convey the idea of electronegativity. In the last half of the book the author gives detailed information on how to prepare the models of more than 400 compounds. There are 32 pages of actual photographs of about 260 models, half of which are in full color. There are extensive tables which will facilitate calculations to prepare a model of any compound.

Jean Crane